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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Economic Information: Wages, Prices and Rationing in Vladivostok

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25X1A Note:

25X1C The dates of information for each of the items are not clearly indicated in the original report but, since rationing was abolished in the USSR by state decree of 14 December 1947, it may be assumed that the section on rationing dates from November or early December. Prices mentioned in paragraph 3 seem extremely low in both "official" and "black or open" market categories. Rationing categories do not correspond precisely with information available to this office; however, it is possible that special conditions in the Vladivostok area have occasioned rationing and price arrangements there which differ from those existing in the USSR in general.

Wages

1. The fixed wages of employees of the People's Committee Retail Stores in Vladivostok are twenty per cent higher than those of similar employees in other districts of the USSR. In addition, these employees are paid premiums, on the cooperative dividend basis, which are based on the quarterly profit (in excess of the state profit) accruing to the individual store.

Prices

2. The shortage of consumer goods in Vladivostok has occasioned considerable rises during the past year in the prices of both rationed goods and consumer goods sold on the black or open market. In some cases, articles are ten times more expensive on the black market than in the state retail stores, and, in the case of meats, butter, fish and vegetables, which are available on the open market, their open market price is sometimes as much as thirty times the official price.
3. Prices of consumer goods in Vladivostok during the period November 1947 through January 1948 were as follows:

Item	Unit	Official Price	Black or Open Market Price
White bread (good quality)	1 kg.	3.5 rubles	...
White bread (inferior quality)	1 kg.	27 kopecks	...
Black bread	1 kg.	10 kopecks	...
Flour	1 kg.	44 kopecks	...
Rice	1 kg.	65 kopecks	...
Beef (good quality)	1 kg.	1.2 rubles	2.5 rubles
Beef (inferior quality)	1 kg.	1.6 rubles	3 rubles

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Item	Unit	Official Price	Black or Open Market Price
Pork	1 kg.	1.4 rubles	2.5 rubles
Chicken (good quality)	1 kg.	1.5 rubles	2.8 rubles
Chicken (inferior quality)	1 kg.	1 ruble	...
Goose	1 kg.	1 ruble	3 rubles
Fresh fish	1 kg.	40-80 kopecks	1 ruble
Minnows	1 kg.	3.4 rubles	6 rubles
Butter	1 kg.	27.5 rubles	50 rubles
Milk	1 liter	2.1 rubles	40 rubles
Eggs	10	6.5 rubles	12 rubles
Sugar (cube)	1 kg.	6.5 rubles	12 rubles
Sugar (granulated)	1 kg.	5.5 rubles	...
Salt	1 kg.	57 kopecks	...
Potatoes	1 kg.	1.5 rubles	3 rubles
Cabbage (salted)	1 kg.	1.3 rubles	5 rubles
Cabbage (fresh)	1 kg.	1 ruble	2 rubles
Cucumber (salted)	1 kg.	3.9 rubles	4.5 rubles
Cucumber (fresh)	1 kg.	3 rubles	4 rubles
Vegetables	1 kg.	1.5-6.0 rubles	8 rubles
Radishes	5 bundles	1-1.5 rubles	...
Tomatoes	1 kg.	2 rubles	6 rubles
Vodka	1 liter	9 rubles	...
Beer	1 bottle	3 rubles	...
Port wine	1 bottle	8-23 rubles	...
Tea	1 kg.	6-10 rubles	...
Tea	1 can	4-24 rubles	...
Tobacco (leaf)	100 grams	4.6 rubles	...
Cigars	1	6.5 rubles	...
Cigarettes	20	9 rubles	...
Men's suits	1	490-1,700 rubles	1,000-2,000 rubles
Slippers	1 pr.	40 rubles	...
Men's shoes	1 pr.	187-400 rubles	...
Ladies' shoes	1 pr.	200-408 rubles	400-500 rubles
Men's shirts	1	60-185 rubles	195 rubles
Men's cotton socks	1 pr.	5.8-9.5 rubles	...
Ladies' stockings	1 pr.	5.2-10 rubles	...
Nylon stockings	1 pr.	19-32 rubles	...
Cotton cloth	1 meter	over 30 rubles	...
Silk cloth	1 meter	over 98 rubles	...
Soap	1 bar	1-5 rubles	...
Matches	1 box	5 kopecks	...

25X1A Comment: In the above list, where no black or open market price is shown, the article is rationed and no black market exists for the commodity.)

Rationing

- Rationing in the Vladivostok area is carried out on the basis of three general categories: a) general rations, b) special (supplementary) rations and c) diplomatic rations. These categories are discussed individually below.
- General rations vary according to four classes of consumers: a) children under five years of age, b) workers' wives and children over five, c) employees ("white collar" workers) and d) manual laborers. Daily or monthly quotas in each class are as follows:

Item	For	Class a)	Class b)	Class c)	Class d)
Bread	Day	400 grams	400 grams	500 grams	800 grams
Flour and macaroni	Month	400 "	800 "	1200 "	1200 "
Sugar and biscuits	Month	600 "	600 "	800 "	800 "
Meat and fish	Month	500 "	800 "	1200 "	1800 "
Butter	Month	300 "	200 "	300 "	400 "
Soap	Month	One bar each of laundry and bath soap per person			

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6. Special rations are issued in supplement to the general ration for three classes of consumers: a) workers in heavy industry, underground installations and in high-temperature jobs in metal factories; b) railroad employees, including laborers, engineers, conductors and maintenance men; and c) pregnant women, from the sixth month of pregnancy until two months after birth, and wet nurses. Supplementary quotas, per day or month, are as follows:

Class	Per	Bread	Sugar	Sausage	Cigarettes	Milk	Corn (husked)
A)	Day	1000 grams					
B)	Day	400 "	20 grams	100 grams	20 grams		
C)	Month	400 "	300 grams			6 liters	600 grams

7. The diplomatic and "foreign members" ☒ non-diplomatic official foreign personnel ☒ ration is as follows:

Item	Per	Diplomats	"Ordinary Members"
Bread	Day	1000 grams	700 grams
Meat	Month	5000 grams	2500 grams
Fish	Month	5000 grams	2500 grams
Sugar	Month	5000 grams	2500 grams
Butter	Month	3000 grams	1000 grams
Cigarettes	Month	300	300

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